



**BEFORE THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
SENATOR NATHAN MANNING, CHAIRMAN**

**TESTIMONY
OF
ROB BRUNDRETT
MANAGING DIRECTOR, PUBLIC POLICY SERVICES**

FEBRUARY 8, 2022

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Rob Brundrett, and I am the managing director, public policy services for The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA).

The OMA was created in 1910 to advocate for Ohio's manufacturers; today, it has nearly 1,300 members. Its mission is to protect and grow Ohio manufacturing.

Manufacturing is the largest of the state's industry sectors. In 2020, manufacturing contributed more than \$105 billion to Ohio's economy. In that year, manufacturing accounted for 17.5% of Ohio's private industry GDP. According to the most recent data, more than 650,000 Ohioans work in manufacturing, and manufacturing has the largest payroll of any Ohio economic sector.

For manufacturers to invest and grow in Ohio – and compete globally – Ohio's civil justice system must be rational, fair, and predictable. Manufacturers must be free to innovate and pursue market opportunities without fear of unreasonable exposure to costly lawsuits, while injured parties must have full recourse to appropriate measures of justice. Senate Bill 252 will help accomplish these objectives.

Senate Bill 252, as originally introduced, requires that within 30 days of filing the complaint, a plaintiff in a tort action who is alleging an asbestos claim must file a signed sworn statement specifying the evidence that provides the basis for each asbestos claim against each defendant in the case. If a named defendant's product or premises is not identified in the required disclosures, the court, on a motion by the defendant, must administratively dismiss the asbestos claim against that defendant without prejudice to the plaintiff.

This piece of legislation is fair for all parties. It will help ensure that actual violators will be held accountable, and it will speed up the judicial process, thus compensating plaintiffs more expeditiously. Ohio has been a leader in asbestos litigation and is often viewed as a model by the rest of the country. Senate Bill 252 follows that lead and will help ensure Ohioans and Ohio companies have appropriate rights and protections in such lawsuits.

The OMA would ask this committee to pass Senate Bill 252. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be happy to try to answer any questions from the committee.